
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

FISHERY UPDATE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, Alaska 99835
Date: April 6, 2012
Time: 5:30 p.m.

SITKA SOUND HERRING FISHERY UPDATE #11

Yesterday's aerial survey showed 4.9 nautical miles of active spawning and today's survey saw 2.0 nautical miles. The total cumulative spawn to date is approximately 36 nautical miles. An analysis of the number of milt mile days recorded so far this season compared to the 2011 season indicates that the current spawn only represents about one-third of the expected spawn this year. It is not uncommon for spawning events to occur in Sitka Sound in two separate spawning events.

There was a significant volume of what appears to be pre-spawning herring holding in deeper waters along the east side of Middle Island seen during the early morning vessel survey.

There were two test samples were taken yesterday, April 5, from Salisbury Sound where a large biomass of herring is currently staging. The results from those samples were as follows:

Zeal Point; 200 t; 9.5% mature; 1.9% immature; 131 gram; 49% female.

S. Gilmer Cove; 200t; 7.7% mature; 0.7% immature; 133 gram; 38% female.

A test sample was also taken on the east side of Middle Island today that was very poor quality roe herring with an average herring weight of 92 grams.

The last fishery was on April 2. The updated harvest estimate for the April 2 opening is 5,350 tons, about 400 tons less than reported in an earlier update. The updated preliminary harvest for the first opening on March 31 is 4,700 tons for a total harvest this season of 10,050 tons. This leaves approximately 18,780 tons remaining of this year's guideline harvest level of 28,829 tons.

The plan for tomorrow is to have several test samples taken from the Salisbury Sound area early in the morning and have them flown back to Sitka. Fishery participants should expect a radio announcement of the test sample results sometime between 9:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. If samples are of acceptable quality for a fishery in Salisbury Sound the department will give a 3-hour notice period to the time of the opening due to the greater distance from Sitka.

The recorded message phone at (907) 747-1009 is experiencing technical problems and not working.

Updates will be posted on the ADF&G web site listed below.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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<i>ADFG</i>	225-5195	772-3801	874-3822	747-6688	465-4250	766-2830		784-3255
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